

For Immediate Release

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H.R. 2410 strengthens the State Department's diplomatic corps through increased hiring and training, and pledges to double the Peace Corps

Washington, D.C. - Today, Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in supporting H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 235 to 187.

"The three D's - defense, diplomacy and development - are the three key components of our national security strategy," said Congressman Sires. "I believe this bill would give the Department of State and Peace Corps the tools necessary to ensure that diplomacy plays an integral role in furthering U.S. foreign policy goals."

H.R. 2410 would strengthen our diplomatic corps by giving the Department of State the authority to hire over 1500 new Foreign Service Officers and improve their language capabilities. Peace Corps volunteers are vital to U.S. diplomacy as they are often the only American faces in some of the world's most remote places and this bill would work to double the number of volunteers. Finally, H.R. 2410 would establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation to expand the number of U.S. students studying abroad. This will help our young people maintain an educational advantage by learning new languages and fostering mutual understandings between cultures.

"The Foreign Relations Authorization Act will help to ensure our safety at home and abroad by putting us one step closer to developing a global security strategy that uses diplomacy as a crucial tool," said Congressman Sires.

H.R. 2410 now awaits Senate consideration.